

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Krasnodar Kray)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Novorossiysk Drivers' School and Drivers' Test	DATE DISTR.	27 May 1953
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5. The drivers' training course at the Novorossiysk Drivers' School was of either three or four months' duration. Providing that they passed the test successfully, graduates of the three-month course were given a drivers' license third class like the one I received; those who passed the four-month course were given the same license with an additional authorization to drive motorcycles.
6. Training at the Novorossiysk Drivers' School was mostly theoretical. I do not know how many lectures were given daily, but I know that students had to devote their entire time to their training and could not get any job while in the school. Practical driving during the training period was limited to 40 hours. In regard to theoretical knowledge of motor vehicle operation, in order to get the drivers' license of the third class, graduates of the school had to know:
- a. Principles of operation of an internal combustion engine
 - b. Principles of operation of a diesel engine
 - c. Carburetor and feeding system
 - d. Distributor
 - e. Generator
 - f. Electrical equipment and wiring
 - g. Cooling system and water pump
 - h. Traffic regulations

The theoretical examination was always oral. Only students who had passed the examination were given the driving test. Those who did not pass the examination were given the right to appear again before the examining board in 30 days.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

7. The Novorossiysk Drivers' School operated during the entire year and accepted students on the 20th of each month. Examinations of students who had completed their courses were also held on about that date.
8. No mechanical experience or any motor vehicle repair ability was required from the driver third class. I do not believe there was a definite minimum time-period during which the driver third class had to appear before the examining board in order to pass his examination for driver second class. To pass this examination, only some additional repairing experience was necessary as well as the ability to drive special vehicles already mentioned. Drivers first class had to be able to perform practically all repairs on motor vehicles, general overhaul included. In our rest home in

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9. In addition to a driver's license, every driver in USSR (except in the army) was provided with a special card referred to as talon, that could be of three grades: first, second, or third. The talons contained the same personal data on the driver as his driver's license, and gave the type of vehicles he was authorized to drive. The first talon was white, the second yellow, and the third green. Every newly commissioned driver received talon No. 1. For serious traffic violations committed by a driver, his talon was taken away and replaced by the next lower one. When a driver had two serious traffic violations and consequently was in the possession of the third talon, he knew that the next traffic violation would normally result in revocation of his driver's license for six months. Minor traffic violations resulted in fines from 5 to 100 rubles without replacement of talons. Most serious traffic violations involving accidents resulted in revocation of a driver's license for 6 or 12 months, even for drivers of the first talon. Sometimes the traffic policeman, when he believed that a traffic violation committed by a driver was not serious enough to require replacement of the talon, would just punch it with a special punch. This would indicate that the driver had already committed some traffic violation, and that no consideration should be shown in case of another violation.
10. The rules governing traffic policy in USSR were so strict, and actions of the traffic militia were often so arbitrary, that, even in cases of accidents where vehicles were damaged, drivers preferred to settle the matter peacefully between themselves. This avoided all the annoyance to which they would have been subjected by the traffic militia if they reported the case.

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